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Prevention of armed conflict

Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

Responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Letter dated 9 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On this day 22 years ago, an unprecedented massacre was committed against the Armenian population in the village of Maragha. It was one of the most tragic and least-known pages of the aggressive war unleashed by Azerbaijan against Maragha village of Nagorno Karabakh with a population of about 6,000 people, including dozens of Armenian refugees who had escaped pogroms in Sumgait, Baku and elsewhere in Soviet Azerbaijan.

In the early morning of 10 April 1992, Azerbaijani armed forces launched an offensive against the sleeping village. Those who had not been able or did not manage to escape, including women, children and the elderly, were killed indiscriminately and their houses were pillaged and burned. The village was completely destroyed and subsequently occupied by Azerbaijani forces.

The facts of the mass murder of the civilian population in Maragha have been confirmed by various human rights organizations, including Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International. About 50 residents of the village were murdered, while their bodies were profaned and disfigured. Forty-five residents of the village were taken hostage, including nine children and twenty-nine women. Two weeks later, the village was again attacked and the population was deported. Houses were pillaged and then most of them were burned down. The fate of many of the hostages still remains unknown.

Today, we pay tribute to the innocent victims of the Maragha massacre and draw your attention to the fact that Azerbaijan continues its policy based on xenophobia, racism and hate speech against Armenia and Armenians, which is one of the main obstacles to the progress of the Nagorno Karabakh negotiation process.

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I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 33, 67 and 77, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Garen **Nazarian**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative